Official Languages

francophone. Their importance to him is this: our good intentions, our efforts to create a functionally bilingual working atmosphere, have now crystallized as a precise and systematic program to identify—by December 31st of this year—and to fill—by 1978—the key positions with bilingual public servants. To assist in this end, we are augmenting second-language training facilities for federal public servants.

I have just one additional note. It may be of special interest to the francophones who have contributed so much to our federal cultural agencies, and are beginning to contribute much more than in the past to the commercial, scientific and technical ones. I am writing to the heads of the federal agencies, to inform them that the government anticipates their personnel policies will take full account of these measures to enhance the use of French. (Along, of course, with the entitlements and safeguards which I described earlier.)

Mr. Speaker, I would humbly express the wish that comparable measures will apply everywhere on Parliament Hill as regards both Houses, the House of Commons and its services and the Senate. I also will draw the resolution to the attention of the presidents of corporations such as Air Canada and Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, we are trying, in a fair and just way, to create a public service increasingly based on a true partnership of the anglophone and francophone communities. We are trying to widen the opportunities for public service for all Canadians who may wish to serve. But we are today discussing only one aspect of the Official Languages Act. It must be remembered that that Act also covers such matters as provision to the public of services in both official languages by the federal courts and crown corporations; the use of the two languages in Parliament; and the appointment of a Commissioner for Official Languages.

That Act and today's resolution make sense only if we agree on the kind of Canada we want: A Canada where French and English-speaking Canadians feel at home in all parts of the country; a Canada where all citizens treasure the privilege and challenge of building one nation with two official languages, and many cultures. [English]

Mr. Speaker, language policy is not an idée fixe with this government; it is one of the means toward our two pre-eminent goals, national unity, and equality of opportunity. To a Quebecker a more desirable Canada may vitally depend on respect for language rights. To a westerner more interest may currently attach to whether this government and their own provincial premiers make real progress at the Western Economic Opportunities Conference. In many parts of the country millions of Canadians will judge their government less by the language it speaks than by whether it provides equity and compassion in our social welfare system, or new ideas and resources to help

keep urban life liveable and urban government workable. Can all these needs be understood and tackled together, Mr. Speaker? I think they can, because while in Canada we may often have different priorities, we respect each other and want to live together as a nation. Canadians also realize that your well being or mine cannot be purchased

[Mr. Trudeau.]

at the expense of our neighbour's. Hence today's resolution is one essential in a complex of programs and objectives to foster unity and equality for all in this country. Today's resolution is a clear option for the kind of Canada we want. I commend it to all hon. members of this House, and indeed to all Canadians.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

• (1700)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is my duty pursuant to Standing Order 40 to inform the House that the questions to be raised at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Yewchuk)—Broadcasting— Sale of radio station CKSB, Winnipeg, to CBC—Action to set aside Canadian Radio-Television Commission decision; the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock (Mr. Mather)— Energy—Proposed West Coast oil tanker route—Alleged lack of departmental co-ordination of opposition; the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Epp)—Canada Pension Plan—Hutterian Brethren of Canada—Request for exemption from paying premiums.

It now being five o'clock, we will proceed to the consideration of private members' business.

Mr. Jerome: Mr. Speaker, I indicated earlier when tabling the fourth report of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs that I would be seeking the consent of the House to revert to presenting reports of standing and special committees to present the fifth report of that committee if hon. members are agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is it agreed that the House should return to the order, "presenting reports" so that the hon. member for Sudbury (Mr. Jerome) may present his report?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

FIFTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. J. A. Jerome (Sudbury): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the honour to present the fifth report of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs. If the House gives consent, I intend to move immediately for concurrence in that report.